(c) if so, whether the project has been dropped ; and

(d) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration to allocate another Atomic Energy N-plant to Punjab at all ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) In the context of the ongoing process of evaluation of various sites in the Northern Electricity Region by the Site Selection Committee constituted by the Department of Atomic Energy, a nodal agency has been nominated by the Government of Punjab for the collection and updating of site data at Drolli village near Patran in Samana tehsil of Patiala district in Punjab.

(b) Some members of the Site Selection Committee and its working group have visited the site. After the work of the Site Selection Committee is completed, the sites will also require clearances from the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board and from the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal as of now. It is premature at this stage to indicate a final decision in this regard, until site investigations are completed and a decision is taken for setting up a project.

Privatisation of nuclear power sector

4136. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government plan to privatise the Nuclear Power Sector by inviting Private Sector to set up four Nuclear Power Plants;

(b) whether the power plants to be privatised are 2x220 MW at Kaiga Nuclear Power Stations in Karnataka and 2x220 MW in Punjab; and

(c) if so, what are the details of this plan and the safety precautions that will be taken to prevent accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) The Government of India are open to specific offers for participation by private firms, Indian or foreign, in the nuclear power sector. However, the Government have not received any concrete proposals from the private sector so far to set up nuclear power plants in the country. Such

offers, when received, would have to be considered on the basis of technical suitability, economic attractiveness, regulatory requirements of our country, and the conditions attached to the offers.

(b) No, Sir. The Kaiga Units 1 and 2, which are in operation, and Kaiga Units 3 and 4, which are under construction, belong to the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL), a public sector undertaking of the Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India, without private sector participation. No decision has yet been taken to set up a nuclear power project in Punjab.

(c) Irrespective of whether a nuclear power project is set up with or without private sector participation, the safety requirements, in accordance with the stipulations of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB), are required to be enforced and complied with.

Subsidy in selling FCI rice to traders

4137. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH :
SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA :

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to let foreigners buy Indian rice at the same price at which families living below the poverty line here buy it from ration shops;

(b) if so, the amount of subsidy given by Government in selling FCI rice to traders for such exports; and

(c) the quantity of rice exported, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) The Food Corporation of India (FCI) has been permitted to offer rice for export at the following rates :—

(i)	Raw rice	Rs. 5,650 per MT
(ii)	Parboiled rice	Rs.6,000 per MT